

DAVIE SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 18, 2004

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Board members present were Chair Alice Harrington, Kimberly Sereda, Marcy Fallahzadeh, Rebecca Orlando, and Barbara Ann Tilley. Also present was Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Alex Arreaza, Barry Mowell and John Pisula were absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 19, 2004 May 17, 2004

Ms. Mustelier made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tilley, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2004. In a voice vote, with Messrs. Arreaza, Mowell and Pisula being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

Ms. Sereda made a motion, seconded by Ms. Orlando, to approve the minutes of May 17, 2004. In a voice vote, with Messrs. Arreaza, Mowell and Pisula being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Survey – Before-School Care Program for Sixth Graders

Chair Harrington referred to discussion at the last meeting concerning before and after school care for sixth graders and the conducting of an informal survey. Ms. Sereda indicated that she spoke to the principal of Indian Ridge Middle School, Frank Zagari and he felt that he had been put on the spot and that the purpose of the meeting was to find out what the Town had to offer, and how to work with the schools to assist in offering after-care for middle school children. She added that Mr. Zagari was supposed to be providing an option for the middle school children.

Ms. Sereda commented that a formal survey was not conducted; however, from a “blurb” that was placed in the Silver Ridge Elementary School newsletter, she spoke with various groups and with a show of hands, there appeared to be a need, though not an overwhelming one. Ms. Sereda advised that there was a new school advisory forum chair mandated by the school board and a survey was being implemented this year in writing to parents. She indicated that the response would be taken back to Mr. Zagari for discussion. It appeared to be something that the school needed to do and it could not be a requirement by the Town because there was no support from the school.

Ms. Mustelier asked if there had been any discussion about Driftwood Middle School since all the children in her area attended that school and did not attend school in Davie. She added that there were children who attended school in Cooper City and questioned if the focus was only on schools that were in Davie. Ms. Sereda indicated that the focus had been on Davie schools; however, she had spoken to the principal of Davie Elementary School whom she also invited to attend the meeting. She added that she had not spoken to the principal of Driftwood Elementary, but, she was aware that because of the boundaries some of the children, particularly those living east of University Drive attended Driftwood. Ms. Sereda indicated that Driftwood may have a program, adding that the middle schools and high schools offered after-care programs because there were community schools attached to them; however, the community schools were governed by a separate administration which made it difficult for the after-care program.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning the placement of parents together who were interested in going to the Jewish Community Center (JCC) if there were enough children and they would provide transportation. There was response from one person and a minimum of 10 children were needed.

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A lengthy discussion was devoted to whether there was enough of a need for a before school program for sixth graders, the JCC proposal to provide transportation providing there were enough children available and the new community center which recently opened next to Driftwood Middle School. Chair Harrington asked if the community center was overseen by the City of Hollywood with Ms. Mustelier responding in the affirmative. Ms. Sereda spoke of a meeting where a discussion regarding the Boys and Girls Club near Flamingo Elementary would be a possibility for some of the children from Indian Ridge Middle School; however, the club was at its capacity. She indicated that there was no space at the new facility at Pine Island because this was being utilized by the YMCA and that there were no facilities available in the Town.

Ms. Sereda spoke of the pending survey which would be conducted among the parents and indicated that there was a greater need for a before-school program that would involve a reading program or study hall because the hours for the middle school was different from the elementary school. She added that an after-care school program was difficult because the school closed at the end of the day and the school administration was not interested in having the YMCA administering the program. Ms. Sereda indicated that it was too late in the school year because parents would have already made arrangements; however, there were plans to begin canvassing early next year among the new children to get an idea as to how many students would require before-school care.

There was a brief discussion regarding commencement and dismissal times with Ms. Mustelier indicating that for some children the need would be for after-school rather than before-school due to the hours. Ms. Sereda suggested that Ms. Mustelier should speak with the principal of the school and the school advisory forum chair.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Broward County School Board Activities

Ms. Sereda advised that there were modular units being installed at Fox Trail Elementary and Silver Ridge Elementary and children would be able to occupy them this year. She added that nine portable units were also being installed at Indian Ridge Middle and another modular building would be placed in the front; however, this was not due to an increase in the number of children but due to the reduction of the classroom size.

Ms. Sereda indicated that the Magnet Showcase had been scheduled for December 1st at the Broward County Convention Center from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. A college fair would be taking place in November and information regarding the time and location was available on the Broward County School Board website. Eleventh graders were being invited to attend in the morning and the seniors were invited in the night.

Ms. Sereda advised that the School Board was looking at Policy 6000.1 where several changes had been proposed, some of which may have already had its second reading. She indicated that some of the changes included waiver of uniforms which would no longer be

allowed except for religious reasons. There were also different options being looked at for children who were retained due to Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) scores.

4.2 Goals and Objectives

Chair Harrington indicated that if Boardmembers had specific issues that they were interested in, she could invite someone to address the Board at future meetings on the issue. She commented that she was not sure about the status of the charter school issue in Davie at the moment. Chair Harrington explained that the purpose of the Board was to deliver input and thought processes to

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Councilmembers on particular school issues; however, it had been a while since the Board had identified any issues that it wanted to specifically focus on. She asked if there were any issues that Boardmembers had in mind or whether there were goals that Boardmembers would like to set for the next year. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the need for a middle school in west Davie to help in relieving Indian Ridge Middle and a site for the new school. Ms. Sereda indicated that there was an interest in a site in Plantation; however, that was no longer available. She added that approval was being sought for the new site by Riverstone, but the School Board was not interested in that site. Ms. Sereda indicated that the School Board was looking at a portable site previously used by Western High that was now being used by Cypress Bay.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the boundary process in the School Board's submission of options by the schools, traffic and the school population at Cypress Bay and Falcon Cove. Ms. Sereda indicated that capping and double sessions were discussed as well as redrawing boundaries to move children back into Western High. She added that there were plans to open a new school in west Davie.

Ms. Mustelier indicated that Indian Ridge Middle was the only middle school in Davie. She added that there were plans to build 2,000 homes on the Waldrep dairy property and asked where the children from that area would attend school.

Discussion ensued regarding Davie Elementary's advisory recommendations of team teaching, enrollment capping, boundary change, year round school and half day kindergarten. Ms. Mustelier indicated that she was averse to the idea of having her daughter going to Hollywood Hills when there were two public elementary schools along with several other schools two blocks from her home. She added that there were 42 buses each day with less than 20 children on each bus coming from all over the County. Ms. Sereda asked if Ms. Mustelier was in a landlocked area. Ms. Mustelier indicated that there was room to build but not enough to handle the number of children and the situation would only get worse. She added that there were no plans to build any schools east of Nob Hill Road.

Ms. Mustelier indicated that her concern was how the determination was made as to where schools were built and the need for a school. She commented that there was only one middle school in Davie and she was told that the determination was not made by Town boundaries. This was confirmed by Ms. Sereda who added that the district was part of the County. Chair Harrington asked if Nova Middle was still countywide, with Ms. Sereda responding that all the Nova schools were countywide. Chair Harrington asked at what point would there be consideration for Nova students who were in east Davie going back to open classroom.

Ms. Sereda indicated that the School Board members had to be approached. A brief discussion followed regarding transportation issues, reassignment of students, transportation costs and the possibility of a central pickup location for students.

Ms. Sereda suggested that Ms. Mustelier discuss the issue with her appointing Councilmember and attend School Board meetings to voice her complaints. Chair Harrington suggested a follow up concerning the middle school issue if Ms. Mustelier was willing to talk with her appointing Councilmember. Chair Harrington commented that it was a viable topic that kept coming up regarding the need for another middle school.

Ms. Orlando referred to previous discussions regarding junior achievement program and added that she had not heard anything further regarding the issue. Ms. Sereda indicated that Vice-Chair Pisula was providing the information.

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Chair Harrington commented that she hoped he would be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

Chair Harrington spoke of involvement by Ms. Klauber in providing information concerning the Child Services Board and the Board was unsure if the community was involved. Ms. Sereda explained that the funds involved was already allocated and was not available for the schools use.

Ms. Sereda suggested that the Board ask for an update from Councilmembers as to whether they would be attending the legislative session and what they would be pushing for in terms of education and the district cost differential issue. Chair Harrington indicated that she would have a Councilmember attend the next meeting to provide an update concerning plans for the next legislative session.

There was a brief discussion regarding the middle school site in west Davie with Ms. Sereda indicating that Vice-Mayor Paul had commented that the school board was looking at other sites and she was trying to assist them. Ms. Sereda commented that she had not heard further on the issue.

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Board members discussed their next meeting and decided to move the meeting to December 6th.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Board Member